

LSP Accountability Panel

The LSP Accountability Panel is responsible for examining, investigating, challenging, reviewing and influencing work of the LSP Executive and Policy Groups and makes recommendations for change where appropriate.

The role of partner organisations on the LSP Accountability Panel is to:

- Challenge partnership performance with regard to Policy Group activity.
- Develop solutions problem areas.
- Act on behalf of the communities they represent e.g. voluntary and community sector, business sector or faith groups.
- Should be the information link between the LSP and individuals, organisation /agencies.

What is the Community Network?

A Community Network is a gathering of community groups, voluntary organisations, residents groups and individuals covering the same geographical area as the LSP.

Networks vary across the country depending on whether they receive government funding and are expected to do all they can to involve people in having a say in how services are delivered to best meet the needs of the local community.

The Durham District Partnership includes 10 representatives from the Community Network who sit on the LSP Executive, Accountability Panel and policy groups with equal rights and influence in the decision making process. Members of the wider community channel their issues through the reps on the policy groups and likewise the reps inform the Community Network about the consultations and decisions coming from the policy groups. Ideally, local knowledge is reflected in the services provided to the neighbourhoods alongside sustaining community engagement.

The role of Community Network representatives is to:

- Help the Partnership to work in an inclusive way, i.e. helping the Partnership to fulfill its responsibilities to communicate effectively with local people, taking their views and concerns into account.
- Assist in bringing forward a voluntary & community and the wider community perspective to the activities of the Partnership from the organisation that they are nominated from, which may be a community or voluntary sector organisation;
- Encourage the Partnership to consider wider community involvement issues when necessary and advise on how this can be done.

Who supports the work of the Durham District Partnership?

LSP Development Officer

The LSP Development Officer is responsible for the day-to-day management and co-ordination of the partnership. This includes partner liaison, policy development, performance management and much more.

T: 0191 301 8535
E: briley@durhamcity.gov.uk
E: lsp@durhamcity.gov.uk

LSP Support Assistant

The LSP Support Assistant is responsible for general support and administration work associated with the partnership. This includes taking minutes, organising meetings, updating the LSP website and much more.

T: 0191 301 8757
E: lsp@durhamcity.gov.uk

LSP Community Co-ordinator

The LSP Community Co-ordinator is responsible for providing support to the Community Network. This includes development of the network, community engagement and general secretariat support.

T: 0191 384 4801
E: maryfoy.cvs@btconnect.com

For more information, advice and guidance please feel free to contact any of the LSP support staff. If you have access to the web and would like details of meetings, action plans and newsletters and many other key documents please visit the LSP website: www.durhamdistrictpartnership.co.uk.



LSP Fact Sheet – For Partners

This fact sheet has been created to act as a refresh for all partners with regard to the purpose of LSPs and Policy Groups and the role partners should play within them.

April 2008

What is a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)?

A Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), is a single body that:

- Brings together at a local level the different parts of the public sector as well as the private, business, community and voluntary sectors so that different initiatives and services support each other and work together.
- Is a non-statutory partnership.
- Provides a single overarching local co-ordination framework within which other partnerships can operate.
- Is responsible for developing and driving the implementation of Community Strategies.

Communities and Local Government believes more gets done if people in an area work together. They could be community and faith groups, the council, police and fire & rescue services, charity groups, businesses, schools, health bodies and more. Pooling experience and expertise, they can understand local people, places and problems. And make sure the right actions are taken and right services delivered.

Why were LSPs started?

The Local Government Act 2000 placed a duty on all local authorities to develop a Community Strategy. A Community Strategy is a document that sets out a vision, priorities and desired outcomes to improve the quality of life for people who live in, work in, invest in and visit a particular area.

The Government stipulated that this document must be produced in partnership, therefore LSPs were created.

In the City of Durham District the LSP was formed in November 2002 and in 2005 the partnership made a decision to re-brand and become known as the Durham District Partnership.

What does the Durham District Partnership do?

Vision it sets the long-term vision and plan for the City of Durham district. The plan is known as the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Priorities it sets priorities within the Sustainable Community Strategy and oversees their delivery. These local priorities are then fed into a county-wide Local Area Agreement (www.durhamlaa.org.uk) which aims to improve services for local people.

Involvement it allows local people from the business sector and community and voluntary sector to influence and shape service design and delivery which will affect their lives.

Co-ordination it co-ordinates the work done by different partner organisations in the area of regeneration and community planning.

How is the LSP set up in the City of Durham District?

Each area has the autonomy to establish an LSP as they see fit in order to meet the needs of local issues. The Durham District Partnership has the following structure:

LSP Policy Groups are groups of active partners which come together to look at how they can 'add value' to the service they provide by working together; these are the drivers for change with the partnership. There are six policy groups in total, which consider the following aspects of life across the City of Durham District:

The Local Children's Board working to support children, young people and their families to get a better start in life (Contact Pam.Bloomfield@durham.gov.uk).

The Community Safety Partnership working to reduce crime and the fear of crime (Contact Trevor Watson: trevor.watson@durham.pnn.police.uk).

The Cultural Development Group working to develop cultural assets in the City and surrounding villages (Contact Alison Lister: alison@sedgefield.demon.co.uk).

The Economic & Skills Partnership working to ensure the district has a strong and vibrant economic base and working to promote lifelong learning (Contact John Widdowson: john.widdowson@newdur.ac.uk).

The Health Improvement Group working to reduce health inequalities within the district (Contact Iain Miller: iain.miller@cdpct.nhs.uk).

The Housing & Environment Group working to improve the natural and built environment (Contact Cllr Dennis Jackson: dejplas@talk21.com).

The role of partner organisations on the LSP Policy Groups is to:

- Identify areas in need of development.
- Identify areas of work that can add value to what's already going on locally.
- Share information to avoid duplication.
- Be pro-active with regard to emerging policy issues
- Develop an action plan to deliver priorities outlined within the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- Should be the information link between the LSP and individuals, organisation/agencies.

Governing the partnership are the LSP Executive and LSP Accountability Panel:

LSP Executive

The Executive is responsible for conducting the business of the partnership. It provides; leadership, strategic direction and is the key decision making body. The LSP Executive develops strategic direction into a more explicit form of action.

The role of partner organisations on the LSP Executive is to:

- Be change makers that represent their organisation at the highest decision-making level.
- Improve service design and delivery in line with Sustainable Community Strategy priorities and actions.
- Share information about cross-cutting issues emerging in the Policy Groups..
- Seek partnership approaches to improve local performance indicators results.
- Should be the information link between the LSP and individuals, organisation/agencies.

